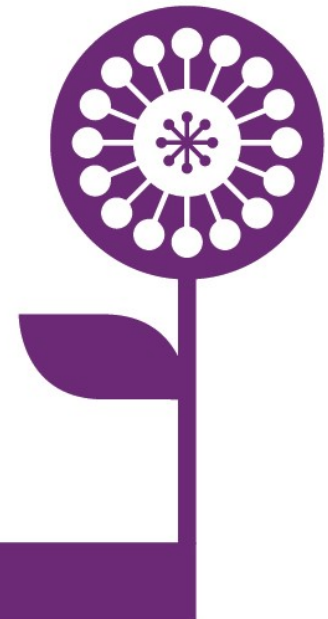


40 DAYS OF
PRAYER AND
FASTING
5 JUNE -
14 JULY
2017



STEPS 2017

Introduction

Monday 10 - Sunday 16 July

When we set out on a big adventure like STEPS we want to be following God's lead and so we stop and we pray. We listen and wait. We lay down our own agendas and seek what God has in store for us.

On this journey, which we're calling STEPS, we have already been doing this, but we find ourselves called to do it again at this key time when we raise funds and turn ideas into a reality.

Over the course of recent months Isaiah 61 has stood out to us and so during the next 40 days we encourage you to read this chapter of the bible each day and let the words sink in. To let God speak to you through the different translations on offer.

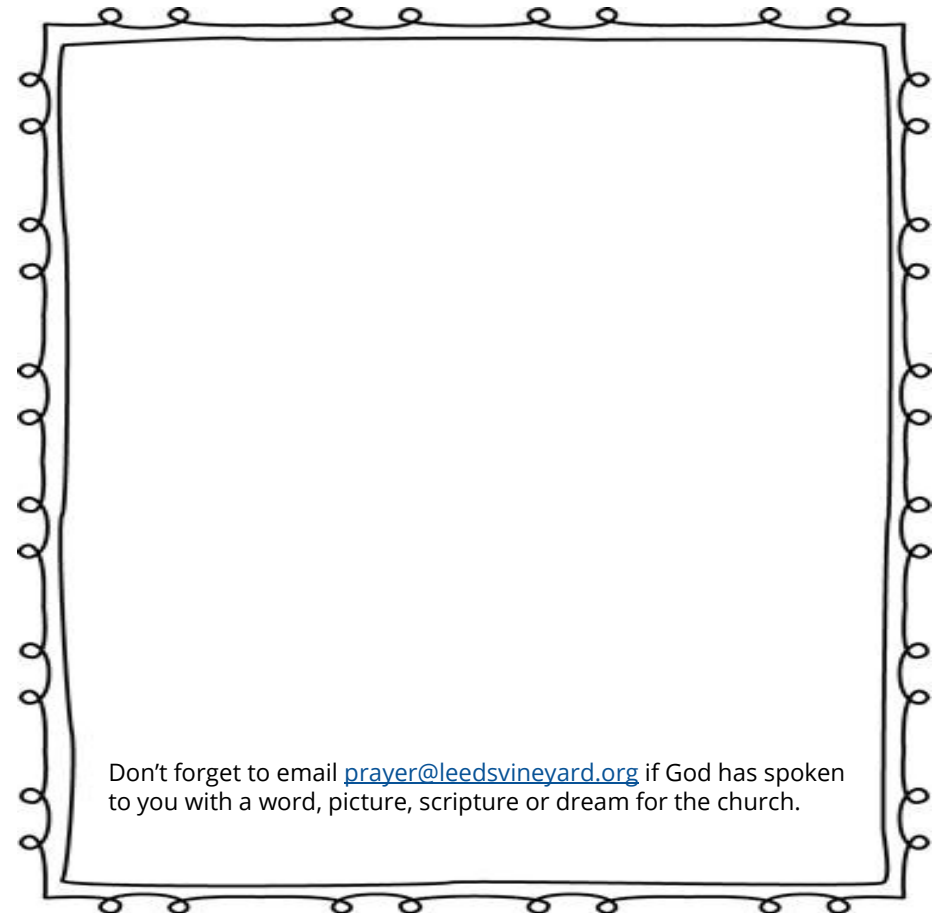
We are expecting God to speak to us as we do this. He will speak to us personally but also for the church. If you think God may have given you a word, picture, scripture or dream during this time please let us know by emailing prayer@leedsvineyard.org

For reflection

Lord, as the 40 days of prayer and fasting draw to a close would you help me to keep my heart and mind fixed on you. As I follow your lead in my life would you continue to strengthen me, equip me, heal me and change me. It's all about you Jesus.

Lord, thank you that you are in control of my life and the future direction of Leeds Vineyard. Help me to play my part as you bring your Kingdom in Headingley.

Further reflection: Hebrews 12:1-3, Exodus 33:15-17, Joshua 3:5



Isaiah 61 Good News Translation (GNT) The Good News of Deliverance

The Sovereign LORD has filled me with his Spirit. He has chosen me and sent me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to announce release to captives and freedom to those in prison. He has sent me to proclaim that the time has come when the LORD will save his people and defeat their enemies. He has sent me to comfort all who mourn, to give to those who mourn in Zion, Joy and gladness instead of grief, a song of praise instead of sorrow.

They will be like trees that the LORD himself has planted. They will all do what is right, and God will be praised for what he has done. They will rebuild cities that have long been in ruins. My people, foreigners will serve you. They will take care of your flocks and farm your land and tend your vineyards. And you will be known as the priests of the LORD, the servants of our God. You will enjoy the wealth of the nations and be proud that it is yours. Your shame and disgrace are ended. You will live in your own land, and your wealth will be doubled; your joy will last forever.

The LORD says, "I love justice and I hate oppression and crime. I will faithfully reward my people and make an eternal covenant with them. They will be famous among the nations; Everyone who sees them will know that they are a people whom I have blessed." Jerusalem rejoices because of what the LORD has done. She is like a bride dressed for her wedding. God has clothed her with salvation and victory. As surely as seeds sprout and grow, the Sovereign LORD will save his people, and all the nations will praise him.

Pray for one of these each day:

- Leeds University
- Headingley Sports: Rhinos (rugby league), Yorkshire Carnegie (rugby union), Yorkshire Cricket, Leeds Force (basketball)
- People sleeping rough in Headingley
- Our church neighbours - St Chad's (Rev Tom Lusty)
- Small Groups meeting in Headingley who are interacting with the community (Doing the Stuff, HOTS, Headingley Prayer Walk, Coffee Club, Gareth & Krys's group)

For each week of our 40 day period we have given you:

- Ideas about things you can pray for to get you started.
- A reflection to help you engage with God and hear from Him.
- A space to doodle in: to write down what God is saying, to draw what He shows you, or to use in another way that helps you to express what you hear from Him.

We'd also encourage you to fast over the course of this time; perhaps to give up something which you might normally turn to for comfort and instead to turn to God. For some further explanation about fasting, please have a read of the Prayer & Fasting articles on our website. Head to www.leedsvineyard.org and type 'prayer and fasting' into the search bar at the bottom of the homepage.

This time around we'd encourage you to have a food fast: snacks, pudding, caffeine, alcohol, maybe fast a meal, perhaps even fast for a 24 hour period*.

**please seek medical advice before fasting from food for any length of time*

Isaiah 61(NIV): The Years of the Lord's Favour

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed."

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

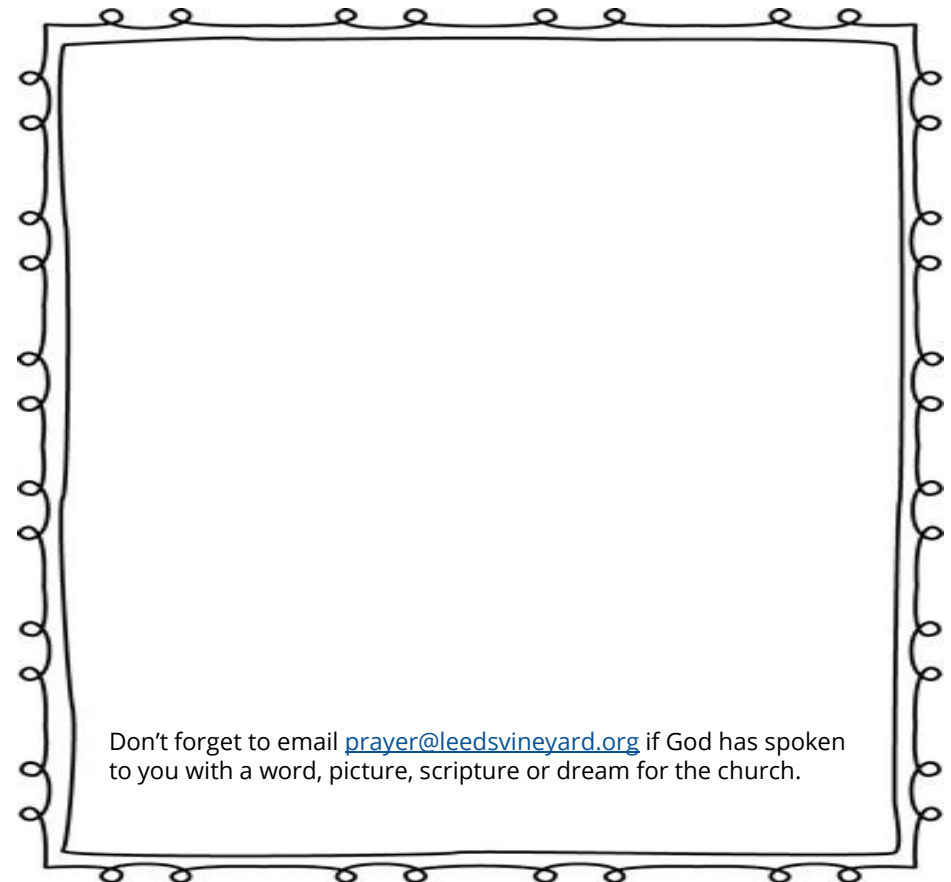
- Pray for one of these each day:**
- Our church neighbours - Headingley Methodist (led by Rev Tim Boocock)
 - Families living in Headingley
 - An increased sense in people of their need for Jesus
 - The General Election: Leeds NW Constituency

For reflection

Thank you Lord that I am part of the adventure of Vineyard House. As the dreams and projects unfold, would you show me how I can be involved. Lord would you shape the Rocks that go into this building, that they would be effective in impacting the people of Headingley and bringing your peace and well being.

Lord, thank you for the privilege of being part of Leeds Vineyard. Show me how you want to be involved in supporting the vision for Vineyard House. Give me vision for the Rocks.

Further reflection: Jeremiah 29:7, 1 Corinthians 12:27



Isaiah 61 (The Voice)

The Spirit of the Lord, the Eternal, is on me. *The Lord has appointed me for a special purpose.* He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to repair broken hearts, And to declare to those who are held captive and bound in prison, "Be free *from your imprisonment!*" *He has sent me* to announce the year of *jubilee, the season* of the Eternal's favour: *for our enemies* it will be a day of God's wrath; For those who mourn it will be *a time of* comfort. As for those who grieve over Zion, *God has sent me* to give them a *beautiful* crown in exchange for ashes, to anoint them with gladness instead of sorrow, to wrap them in *victory, joy, and* praise instead of depression and sadness. People will call them *magnificent, like great towering* trees standing for what is right. They stand to the glory of the Eternal who planted them. And they will rebuild *this place from* its ancient ruins; they will restore the ages-old, *once-splendid* structures; They will renew *Israel's* ruined cities from the ashes and debris that laid *untouched* for many generations. And people will come from all over *to serve you:* Outsiders will tend your flocks, plough your fields, and prune your vines. You will be known as *the ones specially* chosen by the Eternal as priests; people will speak of you as ministers of our God. And the wealth of nations will come to you for your delight and enrichment. Many called you disgraced *and defiled* and said that shame should be your share of things. Yet you suffered doubly and lived in disgrace; So double will be your share, and with joy everlasting.

Eternal One: For I, the Eternal, love justice. I hate stealing and *all manner of* wrongdoing. In faithfulness to those *who do justice, I promise* they will be rewarded *for their work;* and I will establish an everlasting covenant with them. Furthermore, I will promise them My support for their children, so that all nations and everyone around will see that they are the children blessed by the Eternal God. I am filled with joy and my soul vibrates with exuberant *hope, because of the Eternal my God;* *For He has dressed me with the garment of salvation, wrapped me with the robe of righteousness. It's as though I'm dressed for my wedding day, in the very best: a bridegroom's garland and a bride's jewels. The whole earth sprouts newness and life in the springtime, and green shoots break through the well-seeded garden soil. That's what it is like with the Eternal's victory—* the Lord will cause justice and praise to sprout up before all the nations, *for all peoples to see.*

Pray for one of these each day:

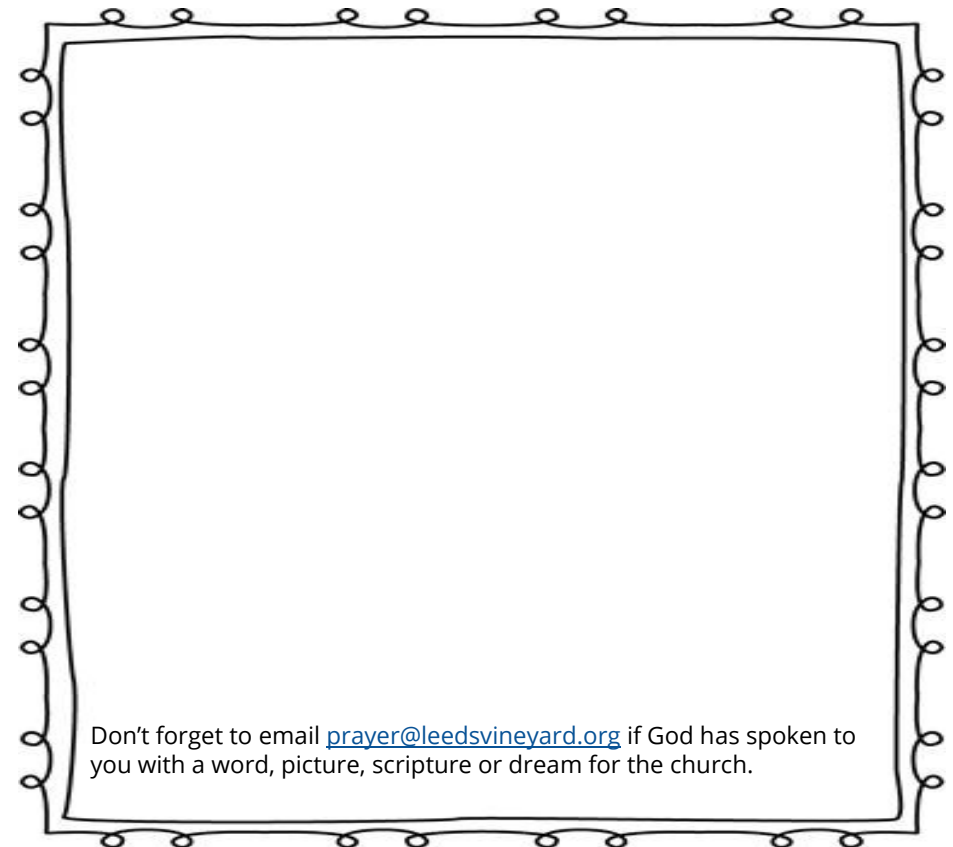
- Businesses in the area (e.g. Harris & Co, White Young Green, North Lane House, Princess Garage, Dinsdales, Face Facts)
- Leeds Beckett University
- Local Social Workers
- HEART (community venture in Headingley)

For reflection

Sometimes we can struggle to make time to be with God every day. We know that being with Him is what we need most in our lives, yet daily distractions get in the way. There are so many things clamouring for our attention and there is always more to do. Over the next 40 days let's commit together to spending more time in God's presence, more time listening to His voice in prayer and more time learning from His Word.

Lord, would you give me the desire to spend more time with you. Help me to clear out anything that gets in the way of being with you.

Further reflection: Psalm 27:4, Psalm 139:23-24



Don't forget to email prayer@leedsvineyard.org if God has spoken to you with a word, picture, scripture or dream for the church.

Isaiah 61 (The Message) Announce Freedom to All Captives

The Spirit of GOD, the Master, is on me because GOD anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. GOD sent me to announce the year of his grace - a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies— and to comfort all who mourn, To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit.

Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness" planted by GOD to display his glory. They'll rebuild the old ruins, raise a new city out of the wreckage. They'll start over on the ruined cities, take the rubble left behind and make it new. You'll hire outsiders to herd your flocks and foreigners to work your fields, But you'll have the title "Priests of GOD," honoured as ministers of our God. You'll feast on the bounty of nations, you'll bask in their glory. Because you got a double dose of trouble and more than your share of contempt, Your inheritance in the land will be doubled and your joy go on forever. "Because I, GOD, love fair dealing and hate thievery and crime, I'll pay your wages on time and in full, and establish my eternal covenant with you. Your descendants will become well-known all over. Your children in foreign countries will be recognized at once as the people I have blessed."

I will sing for joy in GOD, explode in praise from deep in my soul! He dressed me up in a suit of salvation, he outfitted me in a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom who puts on a tuxedo and a bride a jewelled tiara. For as the earth bursts with spring wildflowers, and as a garden cascades with blossoms, So the Master, GOD, brings righteousness into full bloom and puts praise on display before the nations.

Pray for one of these each day:

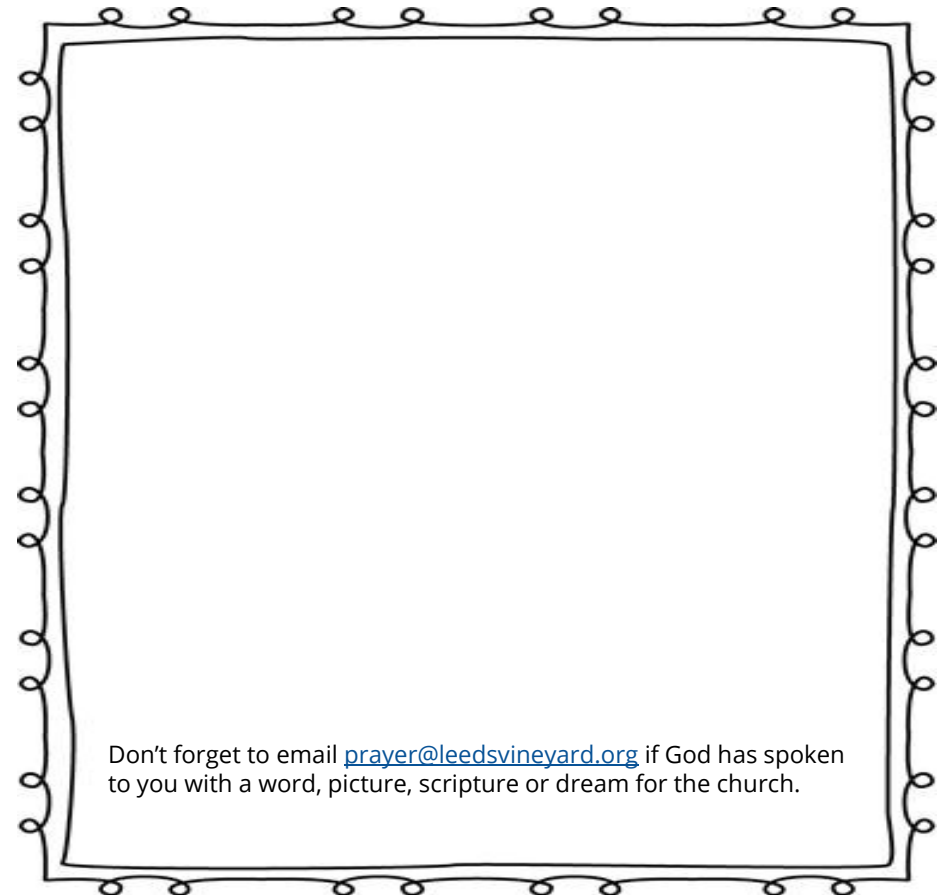
- Our church neighbours - South Parade Baptist (Rev Peter Morden, who takes up post there in September)
- Shire Oak & Spring Bank primary schools and other schools and nurseries in the area
- Local cafes and restaurants
- Local pubs & nightlife
- Headingley Development Trust: "promoting & developing a sustainable community in Headingley"

For reflection

Thank you Lord for the way you have led Leeds Vineyard from the very beginning. As we think about the next chapter in the life of the church, would you show each one of us how you want us to give financially to this.

Lord, I recognise that everything I have comes from you. Would you show me how much money you want me to give joyfully to STEPS.

Further reflection: Psalm 24:1a, Deuteronomy 8:17-18, 2 Corinthians 9:6
-8



Isaiah 61 (ESV) The Year of the LORD's Favour

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your ploughmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonour they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Pray for one of these each day:

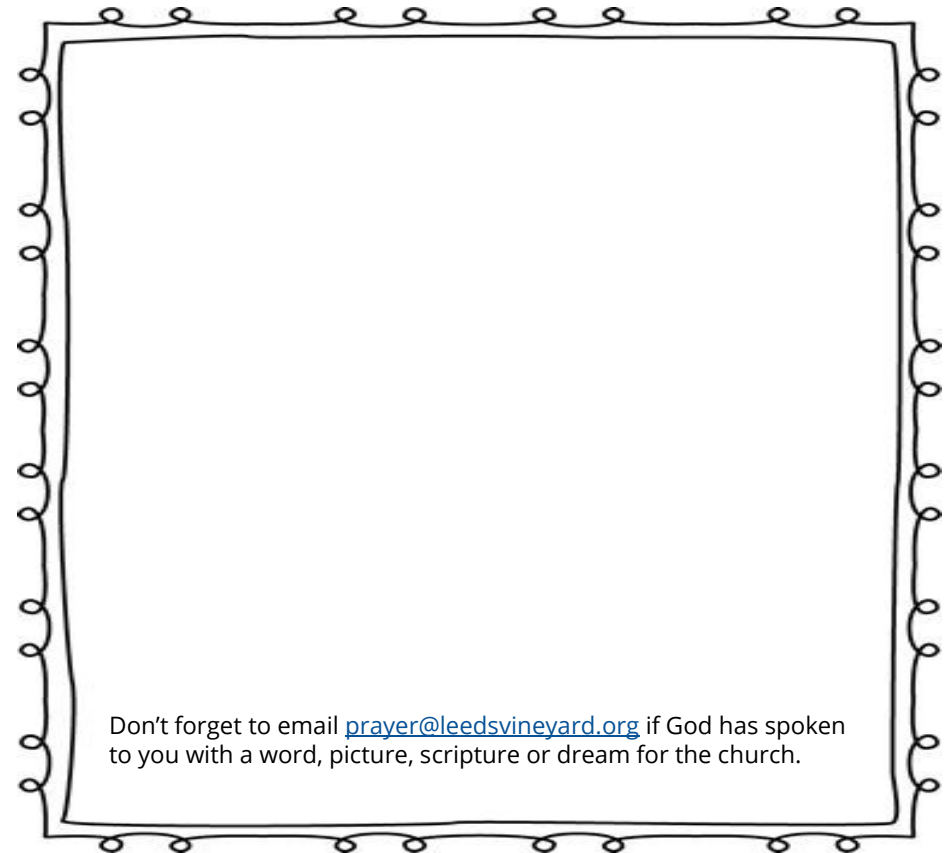
- Our church neighbours - St Michael's (led by Rev Tony Whatmough)
- Local Councillors (Alison Garthwaite, Jonathan Pryor, Neil Walshaw)
- A low crime rate and for the Police
- For those who go hungry in Headingley
- For the local Guiding Packs (Scouts, Brownies, etc)

For reflection

Thank you Lord that in the Bible we find wisdom for our lives. Thank you that you love to speak to us through the Bible and to encourage us.

Sometimes when we read scripture a verse or two, or even just one word, will stand out. This is often God highlighting something that He wants to speak to us about. Are any of the Isaiah 61 verses standing out to you? What is God saying to you through this passage? It could be something for you personally or for the church.

For further reflection: Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16



Isaiah 61 (NLT) Good News for the Oppressed

Monday 19 - Sunday 25 June

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken-hearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favour has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.

To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory. They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago. They will revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations. Foreigners will be your servants. They will feed your flocks and plough your fields and tend your vineyards.

You will be called priests of the LORD, ministers of our God. You will feed on the treasures of the nations and boast in their riches. Instead of shame and dishonour, you will enjoy a double share of honour. You will possess a double portion of prosperity in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. For I, the LORD, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing. I will faithfully reward my people for their suffering and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be recognized and honoured among the nations. Everyone will realize that they are a people the LORD has blessed." I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God!

For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels. The Sovereign LORD will show his justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise him! His righteousness will be like a garden in early spring, with plants springing up everywhere.

Pray for one of these each day:

- Our church neighbours - St Columba's
- Young people living or hanging out in Headingley
- The elderly, including the local hospices and homes
- Students living and socialising in Headingley
- Road safety along the Otley Road

For reflection

Thank you Lord that you have called each one of us to be part of the Leeds Vineyard family. As we step into this adventure with Vineyard House would you protect our relationships with each other. Help us to grow in love towards each other and to always prefer each other.

Lord would you highlight any relationship within our church family that I need to work on. Show me what to do to heal, repair or restore this relationship. Help me become more like you as I seek to listen, love and understand others, especially those different from myself. Help me to see them as each deeply loved by you and made in your image.

Further reflection: John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 24b-26

